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# Republican Policy Committee

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## Recess Talking Points

### Keeping Our Promises, For a Change

*Republicans are committed to balancing the budget. The President and his party are committed to deficit spending as far as the eye can see.*

- ▶ Earlier this year, over **99 percent of Congressional Republicans** voted for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The **flip-flop of six Senate Democrats**, who had previously supported the amendment, led to its defeat.
- ▶ But even though Congress couldn't pass the amendment, **Republicans committed themselves to balancing the budget in seven years**, with a balanced plan that encompassed the entire federal budget.
- ▶ Under our plan, federal spending rises from **\$1.6 trillion this year to \$1.9 trillion in FY 2002** — a nearly **20 percent increase** over seven years.
- ▶ And that plan means a **deficit going down**, every year, from **\$175 billion in FY 1995 to a surplus of \$6.4 billion in FY 2002**.
- ▶ Numerous **outdated programs, commissions, and agencies are phased out**. **Redundant and duplicative initiatives are consolidated**. Responsibility and authority for **programs best left at the state level are returned to the governors**, with appropriate safeguards.
- ▶ **President Clinton**, though, has **ducked the challenge for change**. No budget on his watch has come anywhere near balance.
- ▶ In fact, his **1993 plan added more than a trillion dollars of new debt**.
- ▶ And while the President claims his latest budget released in June gets to balance in nine years, in fact the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that it results in **deficits of over \$200 billion every year as far as the eye can see**.

***Republicans are committed to preserving, protecting, and strengthening Medicare. The President and his party are committed to demagoguing Medicare.***

- ▶ Medicare's trustees, including three Clinton cabinet members, told America earlier this year that Medicare was going broke fast. Republicans got to work.
- ▶ Republicans will slow the rate of growth in Medicare. Under the Republican plan, total Medicare spending will be \$1.6 trillion over the next seven years, 73 percent higher than the previous seven years.
- ▶ On average, per-beneficiary spending will jump from \$4,800 to \$6,700 over the next seven years.
- ▶ Seniors will have more choices than they do now. The Senate Republican plan allows seniors to keep their traditional Medicare plan, or choose from new options with different benefits that are right for them. They could establish medical savings accounts. Doctors and hospitals could set up new Medicare coverage networks. All types of organizations could create Medicare coverage plans — as long as they meet Medicare standards. In some cases, beneficiaries will get money back for being frugal with their Medicare choices.
- ▶ Republicans get tough in cracking down on fraud and abuse in the Medicare program, to protect seniors and help rein in exploding costs.
- ▶ Democrats, though, don't have any plan to confront the Medicare crisis. Astonishingly, some Congressional Democrats insist that Medicare is in no trouble at all!
- ▶ The President has a vague Medicare reform proposal that is half a page long, but he has repeatedly refused to provide America any details. While Bill Clinton attacks Republicans for slowing the rate of growth in Medicare, his 1993 health care plan did exactly that — and, at the time, he told America, "Today . . . Medicare [is] going up at three times the rate of inflation. We propose to let it go up at two times the rate of inflation. That is not a Medicare ... cut..." [President Clinton, AARP Presidential Forum, 10/5/93].
- ▶ Under the Republican plan, all savings in the Medicare program must be used for Medicare — not for tax cuts, not for welfare, not even for deficit reduction. That's the law.

***Republicans promised responsible tax relief in 1995, and we are delivering. Bill Clinton promised tax relief in 1992, and delivered a tax hike.***

- ▶ Over the past 40 years, Americans' tax burden has exploded. Individuals, on average, used to pay 2 percent of their income for taxes; today, it exceeds 40 percent.
- ▶ But as our tax burden has increased, the ability of the government to render services has declined. The government is too big, and it spends too much.

- ▶ For too long, Washington culture has believed that government creates wealth and opportunity, not individuals and businesses; that decisions are better made on Pennsylvania Avenue, not Main Street — that myth has been exposed.
- ▶ Our government will help where it must, but Republicans believe Americans should be able to keep more of what they earn. Washington is no substitute for decisions best made by families.
- ▶ Therefore, Republicans made a commitment to America: that once the budget was balanced, Americans deserved to have some of the burden lifted from them in the form of lower taxes.
- ▶ Our plan will deliver up to \$245 billion in tax reductions to families and businesses, but only after the budget is certified to be in balance.
- ▶ This stands in stark contrast to the Clinton record. Candidate Clinton promised middle-class tax relief. President Clinton delivered a \$251 billion tax increase package, with new taxes and fees on all Americans, from those who drive a car to those who buy an airplane ticket, even to those who died, with retroactive tax hikes.
- ▶ If Republicans can certify that the budget balances, and deliver a tax cut, it will not be financed by Medicare savings: all savings in the Medicare program must be used for Medicare. That's the law.

*Republicans promised to end welfare as we know it — and we delivered. Bill Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it — and failed to deliver.*

- ▶ Senate Republicans succeeded in securing passage of the most dramatic overhaul of federal welfare programs since they were first created 60 years ago.
- ▶ Republicans end the cash-entitlement status of welfare. We impose a five-year lifetime limit on receiving welfare benefits.
- ▶ Recipients now actually will have to work, at real jobs, within two years of joining the welfare rolls. Those who won't work will get their benefits docked or eliminated.
- ▶ The Republican welfare plan will strengthen families, force dead-beat dads to pay up, consolidate and eliminate programs, and save taxpayers more than \$65 billion over the next seven years.
- ▶ President Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it in 1992 — and then, for three years, did nothing. Now, after an 87-12 bipartisan vote in the Senate, he has endorsed the Republican plan to end welfare!

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